

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 3

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC 25 January 1972

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to.

First Lieutenant *Russell A. Steindam*, , United States Army, Troop B, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, who, while serving as a platoon leader in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, led members of his platoon on a night ambush operation on 1 February 1970. On the way to the ambush site, suspected enemy movement was detected on one flank and the platoon's temporary position was subjected to intense small arms and automatic weapons fire as well as a fusillade of hand and rocket-propelled grenades. After the initial barrage, Lieutenant *Steindam* ordered fire placed on the enemy position and the wounded men to be moved to a shallow bomb crater. As he directed the return fire against the enemy from his exposed position, a fragmentation grenade was thrown into the site occupied by his command group. Instantly realizing the extreme gravity of the situation, Lieutenant *Steindam* shouted a warning to alert his fellow soldiers in the immediate vicinity. Then, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant *Steindam* deliberately threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full and fatal force of the explosion as it detonated. By his gallant action and self-sacrifice, he was able to save the lives of the nearby members of his command group. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Lieutenant *Steindam* were an inspiration to his comrades and are in the highest traditions of the United States Army

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff.

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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